



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FORMER EL PASO SHERIFF'S DEPUTY SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT
FOR POLICE MISCONDUCT – CO-DEFENDANT IS A “NO SHOW” AT SENTENCING**

(EL PASO, TEXAS) United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that 37-year-old **MICHAEL DURAN**, a former El Paso County Sheriff's deputy, was sentenced to ten years in federal prison without parole for willfully depriving a woman of her civil rights.

Duran's co-defendant in this case—43-year-old former El Paso County Sheriff's deputy **PETER CALZADA**—failed to appear in court this morning for sentencing. Both Duran and Calzada pled guilty to the same charge in April. Court documents filed in this case state that in January of 1998, the defendants unlawfully detained, harassed, assaulted and intimidated a female victim. The victim was stranded on a county road with a flat tire at the time of the assault. The factual basis states the defendants placed the victim in their patrol car and threatened her with arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol if she did not comply with their demands. Furthermore, the defendants drove the victim to a secluded area and threatened her by telling her the state would take custody of her children. Ultimately, Duran raped and physically assaulted the victim under the direction of Calzada.

“Law enforcement officers are sworn to uphold the law and protect the rights of our citizens, not violate them. The conduct of these two officers was outrageous and today's punishment of ten years in federal prison for Mr. Duran is well deserved,” stated U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton.

An arrest warrant has been issued for Calzada. He faces up to ten years in federal prison without parole and a maximum \$250,000 fine on the civil rights charge.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donna Miller from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas and Eric Morales, trial attorney in the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division.

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